(9) A notification to control noise pollution emanating from various sources with the help of local authorities has been notified in February, 2000.

(10) Noise standards for stationary diesel sets (15-500 KVA) have been notified during January, 1999.

(11) Noise standards for fire crackers had been notified in October, 1999.

(12) Noise limits for portable generator sets run with petrol and kerosene have been notified in September, 2000.

(13) Noise limits for vehicles have been revised which will be effective from 1st January 2003. However, they have been notified in September, 2000.

(14) Noise level standards for coal mines have been evolved and notified during September, 2000.

(15) Action Plans for control of pollution in Delhi and Mumbai are being implemented and similar action plans have been prepared for Chennai and Hyderabad.

(16) 24 critically polluted areas have been identified. Action Plans have been drawn up for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.

(17) Environmental epidemiological studies have been initiated in different parts of the country to find out the impact of pollution.

(18) Promotion of environmental education and awareness.

Irregularities in recruitment of teachers in KVS

*86. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4664, given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th April, 2001, and state:

(a) what has been the opinion of CVC in the matter regarding irregularities allegedly committed in the award of work regarding recruitment of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan *vis-a-vis* report of the Enquiry Officer and its own assessment; and

(b) the details of follow-up action taken/contemplated by Governmnent?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) It was decided to entrust the work of conducting the examinations for the recruitment of teachers in Kendriya

Vidyalaya Sangathan to the Educational Consultants India. Ltd.(Ed. CIL) (An autonomous body of the Govt. of India). On receipt of complaints through Central Vigilance Commission, an inquiry was ordered to be conducted through a retired official from a panel maintained by the CVC. The Enquiry Officer observed in his report that there was no financial irregularity and no loss to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. However, according to the report there was a less cautious approach in the formulation of letter of intent / offer made to Ed. CIL and also is not entering into a written agreement between the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Ed.CIL. The inquiry report was referred to the Central Vigilance Commission. The Central Vigilance Commission has in its communication dated 10th July, 2001 opined that the Ministry of Human Resource Development may come up with a firm proposal for disciplinary action, after fixing the responsibility.

Introduction of Astrology at University Level

*87. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has decided to introduce Vedic Astrology as a subject in all the Universities' curriculum;

(b) whether equating astrology with science, involving probing, research, investigations and predictions, has been strongly opposed by the scientific community;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to review the decision in the light of the criticism voiced by the scientific community; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission has recently decided to introduce a number of Vocational, Innovative and General courses in the University system with a view to better catering to the needs to new and emerging areas. These include subjects such as B.A. (Rural Handicrafts), B.A. (Silvipasture), B.A./LLB (Human Rights & Duties Education), B.Sc. (Food Science & Quality Control), B.A. (Early Childhood Care and Education), B.Com. (Foreign Trade Practices & Procedures), B.Sc. (Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics), B.Sc. (Bio-technology), B.A. (Agro-services) and B.A. (Domestic Animal Farming). A full list of such courses may been seen as Statement. (*See* below). Jyotir Vigyan is one of such subjects for which